

Oregon Community College Student Success Indicators – a Brief History

Following the 2007 Oregon Legislative session, the Oregon Department of Community Colleges and Workforce Development (CCWD) created the Oregon Community College Student Success Steering Committee to address the legislative budget note contained in HB 5012. The Committee was given the task of:

- reviewing student performance in Oregon's community colleges, and
- understanding national trends and the findings of relevant research and identifying promising practices.

The Student Success Committee developed a plan that included three crucial elements: 1) working together to improve student success, 2) targeting investments in best practices that create success for more students and 3) creating a plan for measurement to assess progress and results. The full plan is available online at:

<http://www.odccwd.state.or.us/files/pdf/StudentSuccessReport08.pdf>

Following is an excerpt from the Executive Summary:

There is a growing sense of urgency for Oregon's Community Colleges to seriously address student performance and its impact on access and on persistence in post-secondary education and training. The urgency is driven by several facts:

- Over the next ten years, 92% of Oregon's high paying and high demand jobs will require postsecondary education.
- Oregon has set a goal that by 2025, 40% of Oregonians will have a bachelor's degree or higher, 40% will have an associate degree or professional credential and the remaining 20% will have at least a high school diploma.
- Many students who start at community colleges leave before completing a degree or earning a certificate. Nationwide, more than 50% of community college students drop out without achieving one of these goals within a six-year period.
- Oregon community colleges fall below national performance rates in areas including affordability, student progress rates, recent high school graduate enrollment rates, minority student achievement and parity of achievement rates among Oregon counties.

The Plan focuses on creating adequate measurements for the three areas of student success: Access, Progress and Goal Attainment. These measurements will provide community colleges with a more complete picture of student enrollment and achievement patterns that is intended to provide community colleges with the knowledge to act in ways that will lead to an increase in student success.